

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/774,462

Examiner

Donald L. Champagne

Applicant(s)

IFFLANDER ET AL.

Art Unit

3622

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to After final amendment filed 19 April 2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1,5-16,19-29,56 and 57.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

DONALD L. CHAMPAGNE
PRIMARY EXAMINER

Donald L. Champagne
Primary Examiner
Art Unit: 3622

DETAILED ACTION

Examiner's Amendment

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.
2. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Andreas Grubert, Esq., on 23 May 2006.

The application has been amended as follows: replace all previous copies of the claims with the attached copies of the claims.

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 1,5-16,19-29,56 and 57 are allowed.
4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: the closest NPL prior art, Conhaim in view of the Edwards, Inc., website and *Thomasregister.com*, does not teach or suggest simultaneously displaying over a network information relating to industrial equipment and services related to the relocation of industrial equipment. This applies to all the independent claims 1, 27, 56 and 57. The closest US patent document prior art, Ikeda (US006938006B2), teaches simultaneously displaying over a network information relating to the combination purchase of tangible and intangible products. However, the prior art does not teach or suggest further limiting Ikeda to industrial equipment as a tangible product and services related to the relocation of industrial equipment as an intangible product.
5. Byrne (US 20040030611A1) is also close prior art. Byrne teaches the coordination of purchase, shipping and installation of multiple goods with services. However, Byrne does not teach or suggest simultaneously *displaying* over a network information relating to goods and services related to the shipment of goods, and does not teach or suggest that the goods are industrial equipment.
6. Furthermore, Byrne neither teaches nor suggests *relocation*, a term of art that applies only to goods that are suitable for re-conditioning and resale. See specification para. [0002].

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Also see the *GE Centerline* web page, which is not prior art but does use "relocation" in the sense that it would be understood by one of ordinary skill in the art of selling services related to industrial equipment. The closest foreign patent art is WO 97/45796, which teaches an ATM vending a plurality of goods and services.

7. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Donald L Champagne whose telephone number is 571-272-6717. The examiner can normally be reached from 6:30 AM to 5 PM ET, Monday to Thursday. The examiner can also be contacted by e-mail at donald.champagne@uspto.gov, and *informal* fax communications (i.e., communications not to be made of record) may be sent directly to the examiner at 571-273-6717.
9. The examiner's supervisor, Eric Stamber can be reached on 571-272-6724. The fax phone number for all *formal* fax communications is 571-273-8300.
10. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Donald L. Champagne
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3622

23 May 2006

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application or previous response to office action:

1. (Previously Presented) A method for on-line marketing of services over a network to a purchaser of an item of industrial equipment, the services relating to the acquisition and/or use of the industrial equipment and coordinating the relocation thereof, the method comprising:

providing an on-line marketplace including information relating to industrial equipment to the purchaser over the network;

accepting information from the purchaser over the network and storing the information in a database registration;

simultaneously displaying over the network the information relating to industrial equipment and at least two relocation services relating to the relocation of industrial equipment, the at least two relocation services provided by at least two different service providers;

accepting over the network input from the purchaser identifying relocation services relating to an industrial equipment purchase for which the purchaser wishes to receive information;

transmitting information to the purchaser relating to the relocation or acquisition services for the industrial equipment purchase over the network;

accepting information from the purchaser relating to the nature of the equipment for which relocation or acquisition services information is to be received; and

transmitting information over the network to at least one of the relocation service providers, said information relating to the nature of the equipment for which relocation services are to be rendered.

~~2-4. (Cancelled)~~

5. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the relocation services include logistics services.

6. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 5, wherein the relocation services include transport management services.

7. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 5, wherein the relocation services include shipment and export handling services.

8. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 5, wherein the relocation services include transport network services.

9. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 5, wherein the relocation services include freight calculation services.

10. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, further comprising transmitting financing services information over the network to the purchaser.

11. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, further comprising transmitting over the network on-call services information to the purchaser.

12. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, further comprising transmitting over the network, to the purchaser, information related to instrument services.

13. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, further comprising transmitting over the network, to the purchaser, information related to financial services.

14. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, further comprising transmitting over the network, to the purchaser, services selected from the group of services consisting of logistics services, payment services, on call services, instrument services and financial services.

15. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

accepting from at least one of the service providers responsive information intended for the user; and

transmitting the information to the user;

wherein the information relating to the on-line marketplace comprises data reflecting actual transactions in the marketplace.

16. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the information relating to the relocation services comprises network address information to permit the user to contact the at least two service providers over the network.

~~17-18. (Cancelled)~~

19. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the information about the industrial equipment input by the purchaser includes information relating to a physical dimension of the equipment.

20. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the information about the industrial equipment input by the purchaser includes information relating to the type of the equipment.

21. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the information about the industrial equipment input by the purchaser includes information relating to the value of the equipment.

22. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, further comprising accepting input from a user indicating a request for an estimate of the price for the provision of relocation services.

23. (Original) The method according to claim 22, further comprising the step of accepting from the at least one service provider information relating to the requested estimate.

24. (Original) The method according to claim 23, further comprising the step of presenting to the user at least a subset of the information from the service provider relating to the requested estimate

25. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, further comprising accepting an indication from the purchaser that its permission is given to transmit to the service provider comprising at least a subset of the information relating to the identity of the purchaser.

26. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 25, further comprising transmitting to the at least one service provider the subset of the information relating to the identity of the purchaser.

27. (Previously Presented) A method for on-line marketing of services to a prospective or actual purchaser of a piece of industrial equipment, the services relating to the acquisition and/or use of the industrial equipment and coordinating the relocation thereof, the method comprising:

information providing over a network ~~information~~ to an on-line marketplace for industrial equipment *displaying* relating to industrial equipment and simultaneously ~~providing~~ information related to at least two industrial equipment relocation services provided by at least two different service providers;

receiving over a network from the on-line marketplace a code identifying the purchaser and information relating to the industrial equipment;

transmitting over a network to the on-line service provider information responsive to a request from the purchaser, the information transmitted in conjunction with the purchaser identification code; and

coordinating, over the network, relocation services for the industrial equipment.

28. (Original) The method according to claim 27, further comprising the step of receiving information relating to the identity of the purchaser.

29. (Original) The method according to Claim 28, further comprising the steps of establishing contact with the purchaser and transmitting a message to the on-line marketplace relating to the contact with the purchaser.

~~30. 55. (Canceled)~~

56. (Previously Presented) A method for the on-line marketing of services relating to industrial equipment acquisition or use to a prospective or actual industrial equipment purchaser and coordinating the relocation thereof, the method comprising:

providing an on-line industrial equipment service marketplace including providing information related to the purchase of an item of industrial equipment and simultaneously displaying providing information related to at least two relocation services for relocating the industrial equipment, the relocation services provided by at least two different service providers;

accepting, from the purchaser, identifying information;

storing the purchaser identifying information in a database;

accepting, from the purchaser, input identifying selection of at least one of the relocation services regarding which the purchaser wishes to receive information;

accepting, from the purchaser, information concerning industrial equipment for which the at least one selected relocation service is sought;

transmitting a purchaser identification code, information concerning the at least one selected industrial equipment service and the industrial equipment information to at least one provider of the selected service;

receiving, from the at least one service provider, information responsive to the transmitted information; and

transmitting to the purchaser the responsive information from the at least one service provider for purchaser consideration.

57. (Previously Presented) A system for providing the on-line marketing of services relating to industrial equipment acquisition or use to a prospective or actual industrial equipment purchaser and coordinating the relocation thereof, comprising:

means for providing an on-line industrial equipment service marketplace including providing information related to the purchase of an item of industrial equipment and simultaneously ^{displaying} ~~providing~~ information related to at least two relocation services for relocating the industrial equipment, the relocation services provided by at least two different service providers;

means for accepting, from the purchaser, identifying information;

means storing the purchaser identifying information in a database;

means for accepting, from the purchaser, input identifying selection of at least one of the relocation services regarding which the purchaser wishes to receive information and information concerning industrial equipment for which the at least one selected service is sought;

means for transmitting a purchaser identification code, information concerning the at least one selected relocation service and the industrial equipment information to at least one provider of the selected service;

means for receiving, from the at least one service provider, information responsive to the transmitted information; and

means for transmitting to the purchaser the responsive information from the at least one service provider for purchaser consideration.